

SPRING

2024

CONTACT US

klambert@crd.bc.ca

250.360.3376

About anything in
the Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2024 CRHC newsletter. To enter a draw for one of 3 \$25 gift cards see the word search! Just email or call Kate with your answer and we will draw winners in time for the Summer Newsletter. klambert@crd.bc.ca or 250.360.3376. Winter Newsletter's draw was to submit your emergency information. If you haven't, please do! We had a great response, thanks!

**FREE
SEEDLINGS
DEADLINE**



Spring is here! Once again the City of Victoria is helping us grow food. FREE seedlings are available. Please email or call Kate at 250.360.3376 or klambert@crd.bc.ca with questions, and the varieties you'd like. Tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, collard greens, Swiss chard, kale, lettuce, basil, chives, nasturtiums, marigolds, and bush beans will be available.

March 1, 2024 is the **DEADLINE** to submit your orders. We cannot change our orders with the City of Victoria after March 8 so it's important to get your orders in on time. If you need any information on the plants, how to grow them, how to use them, what they need; just let us know.

Highlights this Newsletter:

Transfers

Assistance rate change

Wildlife sightings

Seedling giveaway

Help us help you - garbage!





WILDLIFE AND SIGHTINGS

We received an email from a tenant in November about a cougar sighting. This can be concerning and with any large predator; cougars, wolves or bears for example, prior knowledge is important. Look for information on how to behave around large predators at bcparks.ca

Cougars mostly want to leave us alone. There have been 5 people killed by cougars in 100 years in BC. Humans killed more cougars than that last year alone.



ASSISTANCE RATES TO CHANGE

As of April 1, 2024, BC Housing is increasing the flat rent amount for tenants in receipt of income or disability assistance (IA/DA) from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (MSDPR), based on the new Shelter Rates. It is important that you take your Tenant Rent Report (the letter you get after your annual rent review) to the MSDPR as proof of your rent contribution and to ensure your full rent amount is paid. Any questions go to Tenant Services.

BIG STEPS TO SUCCESS

Big Steps to Success is a new one-on-one mentoring program offered for free by Big Brothers Big Sisters (BSBB) of Victoria Capital Region. It supports children (aged 7 to 14) who live in foster care or group homes as well as children who live with extended family members through a kinship agreement. BSBB volunteer mentors are screened and trained adults who can help the child work through challenges and empower them to reach their full potential. Children who have been mentored often feel more motivated to learn and try new things, are better equipped to handle life's challenges, and are 55% more likely to go to college or university! The child and mentor build a strong and lasting relationship through fun, weekly visits, either at school during the school day or on weekends/evening in the community. Mentors in the Big Steps to Success program are monitored and supported by BBBS staff and make a commitment to mentor the child for a minimum of one year.

Interested? Visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters website <https://victoria.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/>, submit an online application, or contact the Big Steps to Success Coordinator:

jacqueline.sookemany@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
or (250) 475-1117 ext. 53

*This program is not affiliated with CRD Housing

POLICY CHANGE

TRANSFERS

To explain transfers and the changes to our process, we first have to talk about the different tenancies CRHC has.

- RGI tenancies are Rent-Geared-to-Income tenancies. If you receive a subsidy, you may be in an RGI unit, unless you came to CRHC through the Regional Housing First Program (RHFP). If you applied through the BC Housing Registry (THR), you are an RGI tenant.
- RHFP tenants receive a subsidy and came to CRHC through the Supportive Housing Registry.
- Affordable tenants would have applied through the online application direct to CRHC or in the office and do not receive a subsidy.

For many years CRHC managed our own transfers with the RGI units. Tenants who wanted a transfer for any reason could request one, and we would accommodate them in order. Tenants who had specific reasons to transfer such as social, family size or medical reasons could also let us know and CRHC managed a wait list.

RGI Transfers: CRHC has grown recently and maintaining an internal RGI transfer list uses a lot of staff time when there is a transfer list maintained already, with BC Housing. The benefit to tenants of applying for the BC Housing transfer list, rather than a CRHC one, is that as well as the CRHC vacancies, you can also be considered for other housing providers' units. CRHC still have access to the BC Housing list. As do M'akola, BC Housing themselves, Greater Victoria Housing Society, and others. It gives a greater range of choices for tenants and a reduced burden on both applicants and CRHC staff. Please note, tenants who are over housed (have more bedrooms than they need) will continue to receive a letter from CRHC advising that they no longer qualify for their current unit and will be transferred to the next available unit. Tenants who are over housed can also apply to THR if they want however, due to the nature of these transfers CRHC will still need to maintain a waitlist to ensure tenants are housed appropriately.

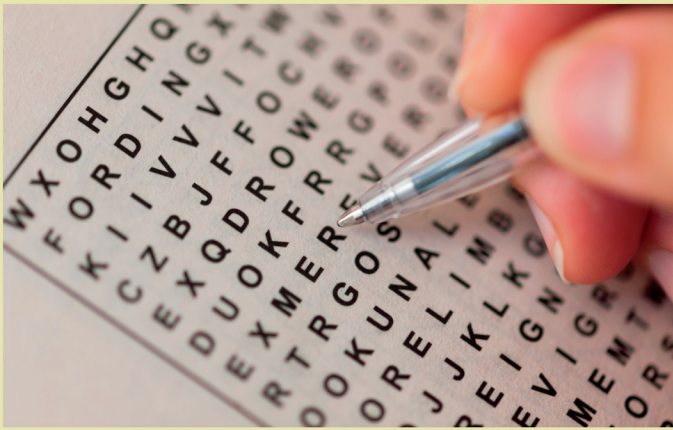


RHFP Transfers: CRHC will continue to maintain an RHFP list of people requiring transfer for allowable reasons. We would also encourage people who want to transfer to apply to the BC Housing Registry as well.

Affordable/market units: If you live in a CRHC building but you don't receive a subsidy, you are probably in an affordable unit. All affordable tenants need to apply for posted vacancies and we don't maintain a waitlist.

The new procedure took effect on 1 January 2024.

If you have any questions about the new (or old) procedure please contact our office at 250-388-6422 or by email at crdhousing@crd.bc.ca



WORDSEARCH!

To enter this Newsletter's draw for one of three \$25 Gift cards, just email klambert@crd.bc.ca or call 250.360.3376 with one of the seedling-related words from the word search! Any of the words gets an entry.

M S S I W S B K Q K
A T O M A T O E S A
R B C H I V E S W L
I A D S N E E R G E
G S R E B M U C U C
O I L C O L L A R D
L L H E C U T T E L
D Z U C C H I N I X
S Q T D J R W E T Y
I S N A E B H S U B



LET'S TALK ABOUT GARBAGE

An issue CRHC deals with a lot is garbage (and recycling). A tenant at one of our complexes suggested a piece about it here so we can explain the challenges and talk about how we can help, how you can help, and what to do when there are issues.

CRHC uses contractors to remove garbage and recycling and sometimes they have staff shortages. This means missed pick-ups. If you haven't had a pick-up, ask your caretaker or property manager. Help us by keeping larger items in your home until normal service is resumed. Christmas, and the end of the month if there are a lot of move-outs, can also lead to more garbage.

There are a few things which can help the community to reduce garbage and recycling issues.

- Break down your boxes. A large box takes up lots more room than a stack of cardboard.
- Don't dump larger items. Talk to your caretaker about options like breaking them down or paying for hauling. If you dump, CRHC has to haul away. This can affect our tenancy and costs CRHC money we would prefer to spend on improvements.
- Don't contaminate the recycling. One food item in the recycling can lead to the whole bin being put in landfill. If you don't know, ask. Or put items you are unsure about in the garbage.



Have a great Spring!